

December 28, 2010

Dear Colleague:

The Puget Sound Partnership is seeking your feedback on two documents:

- A draft Charter for the Puget Sound Coordinated Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Program (Monitoring Program), and
- Recommendations for establishing the Monitoring Program's Work Groups.

The draft Charter and Work Group recommendations are products of a Launch Committee convened by the Puget Sound Partnership. The Launch Committee envisions that the Charter will be a living document that will be modified as the Monitoring Program matures, so our primary interest is in the Monitoring Program moving in the proper direction.

The Launch Committee is looking for high-level input on the content of the draft Charter and Work Group recommendations. For each document, we have provided some questions on those areas in which we are most interested in receiving feedback. However, your feedback in any area is welcomed. When reviewing comments, our focus will be on identifying recurring themes that will help us improve the Charter. The summary of these themes will be available on the Puget Sound Partnership's website. We regret that time and resources will not allow us to respond directly to individual comments. **The closing date of the feedback period is Monday January 17, 2011.**

Background

The Puget Sound Partnership is responsible for implementing a coordinated monitoring and assessment program in Puget Sound as described in Near-term Action E.3.2 in the Action Agenda.

To this end, a multi-stakeholder Launch Committee, staffed by the Puget Sound Partnership, was formed and convened for their first meeting in July 2010 (Table 1). The Leadership Council for the Puget Sound Partnership tasked the Launch committee with recommending "a Charter...based on the essential functions put forth by the Monitoring Consortium in 2008 including: accountability, transparency, science-policy linkages, involvement of all interested and affected parties, strategic approaches including Partnership indicators, stable funding, institutionalized relationships, and regulatory requirements". The Charter will help inform the Leadership Council's decision regarding a governance structure for the Monitoring Program.

Charter Overview (filename: Draft Charter 12-28-10.doc)

The objective of the Charter is to describe a vision for a multi-stakeholder program including: its structure and functions; the roles and responsibilities of various participating groups; and the program's decision-making processes. The Charter is not a work plan, but instead describes a framework for

coordinated and integrated ecosystem monitoring and assessment in Puget Sound. We anticipate that a Steering Committee (to be formed in late winter 2011) will develop a detailed work plan, identify priorities and commission Work Groups.

Questions:

1. Does the draft Charter provide a foundation so that the Steering Committee, once formed, can begin developing a detailed work plan?
2. Are there any significant gaps in the Purpose, Goals and Roles and Responsibilities sections?
3. Are elements missing in the Charter that need to be added or addressed?
4. Are there ambiguities in any of the sections that need to be clarified?

Work Groups Overview (filename: Draft Work Groups 12-28-10.doc)

Work Groups are a key component of the Monitoring Program and their role is diverse. The Launch Committee drafted criteria to help identify topics for Work Groups. The recommendations for criteria and topics for Work Groups will be provided to the Steering Committee that is charged with commissioning Work Groups.

Questions:

1. Are there missing criteria or have we included criteria that are not essential for identifying topics for Work Groups? What are your suggestions for improving the criteria?
2. Do you agree with the recommended topics for Work Groups?
3. What topics (those that are listed or others not included) need more urgent attention, and why?

Thank you for your interest in advancing the development of the Monitoring Program. We value your feedback as it will assuredly help us improve the Monitoring Program's foundation.

Comments can be submitted to Nathalie Hamel by **Monday January 17, 2011** to nathalie.hamel@psp.wa.gov. Comments can also be sent through the regular mail to:

Nathalie Hamel
Puget Sound Partnership
326 East D Street
Tacoma, WA 98421

Sincerely,



Nathalie Hamel
Monitoring Program Manager
360.464.1222

Table 1. Composition of the Launch Committee for the Puget Sound Coordinated Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Program.

Organization type	Organization	Name	Title
Local	King County	Jim Simmonds	Supervisor, Water and Land Resources Division; Chair, Stormwater Work Group
	Seattle City Light	Scott Powell	Strategic Advisor
State	WDFW	Ken Warheit	Chief Scientist, Fish Program
	DNR	Tom Mumford	Aquatic's Program Senior Consulting scientist
	ECY	Rob Duff	Program Manager, Environmental Assessment
State/federal	Washington Sea Grant	Kate Litle	Citizen Science Coordinator
Federal	EPA	Michael Cox	Toxics Coordinator Puget Sound and Columbia River
	NOAA	Bruce Crawford	Senior Monitoring Coordinator
	USGS	Rick Dinicola	Associate Director Washington Water Science Center
Tribes	NWIFC	Terry Wright	Director, Fishery Programs
	Tulalip Tribes	Terry Williams	Commissioner, Fisheries and Natural Resources
Environmental organization Science Panel	People for Puget Sound	Dave Peeler	Director of Programs
	University of Washington	Jan Newton	Chair. Also, Principal Oceanographer.
Monitoring Forum	Puget Sound Partnership	Bill Wilkerson/Ken Dzinbal	Chair. Also, Leadership Council member
Business	Stoel Rives LLP	Lincoln Loehr	Environmental Compliance Analyst
Watershed	Hood Canal Coordinating Council	Richard Brocksmith	Director for Habitat Programs